

Susan's Guide to (Mostly) Free Holiday Festivities 2014 (Scottsdale / North Valley Edition)

Daily (Nightly) this Season

BassPro Mesa (Daily through 12/24)
FREE – Get a Bass Pass, play the games do the activities. Get your photo with Santa at the time on your Pass – it's a virtual line!

Fairmont Scottsdale Princess (Nightly through 1/4) **parking is \$30 so carpool or park offsite**

6-9pm Four Story Musical Tree and Animated Light Show
5-9pm Princess Express Train & Christmas Carousel & Nativity Garden

Desert Ridge (AMC Fountain)
7pm/8pm Snow through December 24th

Mesa Temple (Nightly through 12/31)
5pm-10pm Garden Lights
7pm 30 minute [Concerts](#) 7:00 (arrive early - limited season)

Westin Kierland (Nightly through 12/31)
6:30, 7, 7:30, 8 "Paintscaping" light/music shows at outdoor patio near fire pit (other activities available \$\$)

Calendar of Events

Monday, Dec. 1

Desert Ridge Barnes & Noble - (Coupons)
4pm Grinch Day Storytime (coloring and activities, too)

Desert Ridge Marriott
Daily [Gingerbread Village](#) - "Frozen" theme - through Jan. 4 in the grand lobby (Elf and Snowman characters visit on Saturdays 11:30-1:30, and 5-7)

Wednesday, Dec. 3

Desert Ridge ([Coupons](#))
5pm-7pm Story Time with Martha Speaks
Free Cookies & Hot Chocolate - at the Stage
7pm Snow at the Splashpads (nightly at 7pm & 8pm)

Thursday, Dec. 4

DC Ranch - Market Street
5:30pm-8pm Hot Cocoa Stroll (enjoy treats provided by retailers) - Santa and extra surprises, too
7pm Tree Lighting in the plaza

Friday, Dec. 5

Desert Ridge Barnes & Noble - (Coupons)
7pm Polar Express Storytime (story and activities, kids go in PJs)

Saturday, Dec. 6

Scottsdale Promenade (at the Tree)
10am-2pm FREE photos with Santa, Carriage Rides, Ice Skating, Cookie Decorating

Kierland Commons (Center Plaza)
12pm-8pm Photos with Santa (\$\$\$)
3pm-6pm live music
3:30, 4:30, 5:30 Mrs. Claus storytime
5:30-8:30 Gourmet S'mores Stations
6pm,7pm,8pm Snowfall
6pm-9pm Horse-Drawn carriage rides

Westworld
10am-5pm Holiday [Pet Festival](#) (activities, exhibitions, rescue groups)

Santa at Walmart (valley-wide, click to find nearest participating location)
10am - 2pm FREE photos and no wait. Pick up your free (5x7) photo in an hour, plus take one with your own camera. Gifts for the kids

Cowboy Christmas (Old Town Scottsdale)
12pm-8pm "reindeer" mini-horses, Santa, Stagecoach rides, hot chocolate, cookies, coffee, make ornaments for Scottsdale's tree.

Pavillions at Talking Stick
1:30-3:30pm Pavillion Holiday Express - Santa, crafts and train rides (visitor center, near Home Depot)

Phoenix
7pm 28th Annual APS [Electric Light Parade](#) (Holidays in Toyland theme)

Grayhawk (Through Dec. 24) - Montevina Neighborhood (E. Grayhawk Dr at N. 76th Way)
6pm-9pm Cocoa Shack / Holiday Lights Donate canned goods or cash for cookies/cocoa

Sunday, Dec. 7

Santa at Walmart (valley-wide, click to find nearest participating location)
10am - 2pm FREE photos and no wait. Pick up your free (5x7) photo in an hour, plus take one with your own camera. Gifts for the kids

Wednesday, Dec. 10

Desert Ridge ([Coupons](#))
5pm-7pm Story Time with Clifford
Free Cookies & Hot Chocolate - at the Stage
7pm Snow at the Splashpads (nightly at 7pm & 8pm)

Thursday, Dec. 11

Desert Ridge Barnes & Noble - (Coupons)
5pm Grinch costume character and storytime

Westworld
6:30-8:30pm First ever [HORSE Lighting](#) Ceremony

Friday, Dec. 12

Carefree Christmas Festival
4pm-9pm Kid's Zone (30 tons of snow, Santa, bouncies)
Music, Carriage Rides

McCormick Stillman Railroad Park (nightly through Jan 3 (closed 12/24, 12/25, 12/31))
6:30pm-9pm [Holiday Lights](#) Train Ride. \$3 per person (free for 2 and under with paying adult)
Santa Visits nightly through December 23rd

Desert Ridge Barnes & Noble - (Coupons)
7pm Elf on the Shelf - storytime and adoption event

Saturday, Dec. 13

Scottsdale Promenade (at the Tree)
10am-2pm FREE photos with Santa, Carriage Rides, Ice Skating, Cookie Decorating

Santa at Walmart (valley-wide, click to find nearest participating location)
10am - 2pm FREE photos and no wait. Pick up your free (5x7) photo in an hour, plus take one with your own camera. Gifts for the kids

Target (FLW/101) [Ride for Toys](#) - Scottsdale FD
11am-2pm Bring a new unwrapped gift in exchange for your child to ride in a fire engine

Desert Ridge ([Coupons](#))
10am - 1pm Snow Day 40 tons of snow, live music, giveaways, food, prizes
West Parking Lot off Tatum near the Sandbar (96.9 and 99.9)

Carefree Christmas Festival
10am-9pm Kid's Zone (30 tons of snow, Santa, bouncies)
Music, Sing along, Horse Drawn Carriage Rides, live nativity, choir performances, DJ
6pm Electric Light Parade followed by Fireworks

Kierland Commons (Center Plaza)
12pm-8pm Photos with Santa (\$\$\$)
3pm-6pm live music
3:30, 4:30, 5:30 Mrs. Claus storytime
5:30-8:30 Gourmet S'mores Stations
6pm,7pm,8pm Snowfall
6pm-9pm Horse-Drawn carriage rides

Cowboy Christmas (Old Town Scottsdale)
12pm-4pm "reindeer" mini-horses, Santa, Stagecoach rides, hot chocolate, cookies, coffee, gunfights and robberies.

Pavillions at Talking Stick
1:30-3:30pm Pavillion Holiday Express - Santa, crafts and train rides (visitor center, near Home Depot)

Sunday, Dec. 14

Carefree Christmas Festival
10am Holiday Pet Parade
10am-5pm Kid's Zone (25 tons of snow, Santa, bouncies, kiddie train, comedy magician)

Santa at Walmart (valley-wide, click to find nearest participating location)
10am - 2pm FREE photos and no wait. Pick up your free (5x7) photo in an hour, plus take one with your own camera. Gifts for the kids

Cowboy Christmas (Old Town Scottsdale)
12pm-4pm "reindeer" mini-horses, Santa, Stagecoach rides, hot chocolate, cookies, coffee, gunfights and robberies.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

Desert Ridge ([Coupons](#))
5pm-7pm Story Time with Curious George
Free Cookies & Hot Chocolate - at the Stage
7pm Snow at the Splashpads (nightly at 7pm & 8pm)

Friday, Dec. 19

Desert Ridge - District Stage Area - (Coupons)
6pm-9pm Lego City Display - Weekends through 1/11 (Fri 6-9, Sat 11-9, Sun 11-6)

Saturday, Dec. 20

Kierland Commons (Center Plaza)
12pm-8pm Photos with Santa (\$\$\$)
3pm-6pm live music
3:30, 4:30, 5:30 Mrs. Claus storytime
5:30-8:30 Gourmet S'mores Stations
6pm,7pm,8pm Snowfall
6pm-9pm Horse-Drawn carriage rides

Cowboy Christmas (Old Town Scottsdale)
12pm-4pm "reindeer" mini-horses, Santa, Stagecoach rides, hot chocolate, cookies, coffee, gunfights and robberies.

Sunday, Dec. 21

Cowboy Christmas (Old Town Scottsdale)
12pm-4pm "reindeer" mini-horses, Santa, Stagecoach rides, hot chocolate, cookies, coffee, gunfights and robberies.

Wednesday, Dec. 24 - Family Christmas Eve Services

5pm [Pinnacle Presbyterian Church](#) - Family Friendly service, childcare for under 3
2,4,6pm [Highlands Church](#) - Christmas Musical (extra events begin 45 mins before service)
5pm [Episcopal Church of the Nativity](#) - Family Service
3,4:30,6pm [CCV Scottsdale](#) - Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, Dec. 27

Phoenix
11:00am [Fiesta Bowl Parade](#) - 44th annual Fort McDowell Fiesta Bowl Parade (also on ABC15)

Other - Media

99.9 & 95.1 Continuous Christmas Music now through Christmas Day
(1)941 Cox Cable Traditional Holiday Music now through New Year's
[Santa's Village](#) Website - Kids can explore North Pole buildings and go to the Elf Academy where they can chart their progress to the Very Nice List (brushed teeth, picked up, etc.)

[Hallmark Channel](#) Countdown to Christmas. A full lineup of Christmas movies (premieres on Sats & Suns)
ABC Family [25 Days of Christmas](#). Each evening there is a holiday program.
PIXAR movies, and original programming. (December 1 - 25th)

ABC Family [Countdown](#) to the 25 Days of Christmas (Nov 20 - 30th)
TBS 24 hours of [A Christmas Story](#), starting Christmas Eve at 9PM (8/7c)
NORAD [Santa Tracker](#). Track Santa's route on Christmas Eve. History of [NORAD](#) (cute)

TV Highlights: Full lineup of Christmas themed movies / shows (Now - Dec 31)
Look here to find Charlie Brown, White Christmas, Wonderful Life, Elf, Rudolph...LIVE Peter Pan!?!(NBC, 12/4)

Other Events Around the Valley & State - and Christmas Tree Info

P.V. Mall
Story Time with Santa - Tuesdays Nov 11 - Dec 16th, 10-10:30am at Dillard's Court

Glendale Glitters
Kickoff Nov 28-29, 5:00 - 10:00pm
Continues Fridays and Saturdays through 12/20, 6:00 - 10:00pm

Winter Wonder
Scottsdale Bible (Shea/76th) 12/12-12/14. Amazing music, you probably know some of the kids performing. Arrive early for seats.

Celebration/Christmas Christmas Musical (12/5-12/15 - free, or paid reserved seating) (NW of 51/Cactus)

Don't forget [Zoolights](#) and the [Polar Express](#) train from Williams, and NEW this year, [Macdonalds Farm](#) Christmas Festival (\$12) and the [Desert Botanical Gardens](#) Luminarias. Also, the Ice Den is hosting Holiday Skate throughout the season (\$9-includes rental, 2 hrs, special guests) mostly weekends, day and evening sessions.

Christmas Trees

You can cut your own tree in the [AZ National Forests](#) (\$15 for 10' tree permits) on sale as of November 8th, there might still be some permits available

[Christmas Tree Farm](#) (cut your own) in Flagstaff (\$10 / foot)

[Scottsdale tree collection](#) will be the week of January 5th - put the tree at the curb

Still want more? Check out this [article](#). It has a lot of ads, and there's a lot to go through, but it shows you more events over more of the Valley. It is continually being updated, so it might be worth a look.

Please add a comment if you have an event that should be added for this year or for next year. This list will be updated as I learn about new events, so check back (and pass it on.)